

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08342 111510Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8585
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TELAVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPLOI
USMISSION USUN
DIA
USINT BAGHDAD
ZEN AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, UR
SUBJECT: FAHMI VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA REPORTS ON FAHMI - GROMYKO TALKS AND FAHMI MEETING WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO INDICATE THAT EGYPTIANS WERE SEVERLY TAKEN TO TASK FOR THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN BRINGING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP TO ITS PRESENT LOW EBB. THERE ARE GLIMMERS OF HOPE IN ALL OF THIS THUNDER AND LIGHTENING BUT AS FAR AS THE SOVIET SIDE IS CONCERNED, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08342 111510Z

PROSPECTS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WILL DEPEND ON THE EGYPTIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. JUNE 11 PRAVDA CARRIES TASS REPORT ON FAHMI MEETING WITH BREZYNEV AND GROMYKO PLUS REPORT ON CONCLUSION OF TALKS. LATTER REPORT CONTAINS GROMYKO REMARKS TO FAHMI AT JUNE 10 LUNCHEON, BUT, APPARENTLY, NOT IN FULL. FAHMI RESPONSE RECEIVES

SHORT SHIFT BEING LIMITED TO EXPRESSION OF STRONG DESIRE THAT SOVIET UNION KEEP UP ITS ACTIVE ROLE IN ME AND TO EXPRESSION OF FAHMI'S "DEEP SATISFACTION" WITH TALKS AND MEETING WITH BREZHNEV.

3. BOTH REPORT OF BREZHNEV MEETING AND FAHMI LUNCHEON REMARKS INDICATE CLEAR PRIORITY GIVEN TO BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. REPORT ON BREZHNEV MEETING DESCRIBES "USEFUL" EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON CONDITION AND PROSPECTS FOR THE RELATIONSHIP, NOTES INTENTION OF BOTH SIDES TO STRIVE TOWARD IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS AND, MOST INTERESTINGLY, STATES THAT "CONCRETE MEASURES WERE EXAMINED WHICH COULD LAY A LONG LASTING PRINCIPLED BASIS FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS,," THE TASS REPORT OF THE BREZHNEV MEETING GAVE NO INDICATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING.

4. HOWEVER, THE TASS REPORT ON THE FAHMI-GROMYKO TALKS DESCRIBED THEM AS "BUSINESS LIKE", A TERM RATHER FAR DOWN ON THE LIST OF DIPLOMATIC ADJECTIVES, BUT, PRESUMABLY, BETTER THAN NO DESCRIPTION AT ALL (AS WAS THE CASE FOR THE FAHMI-GROMYKO TALKS LAST NOVEMBER IN SOFIA). GROMYKO'S LUNCHEON REMARKS,

- 4309453Z, CONSTITUTED A RATHER STERN LECTURE TO FAHMI ON SOVIET VIRTUE AND CONSISTENCY VERSUS EGYPTIAN BAD FAITH AND INCONSISTENCY. IN HIS REMARKS GROMYKO:

-- TWICE EMPHASIZED THAT GOAL OF PRESENT TALKS WAS TO FIND WAY TO RENEW RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES - COOPERATION INCLUDING "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND OTHER AREAS". (TERM "AND OTHER" IS USUAL SOVIET EUPHEMISM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 08342 111510Z

FOR "MILITARY");

-- DREW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO "RICHENSS AND PITHINESS" (BOGATSVO' SODERZHATEL'NOST') OF BREZHNEV DISCUSSION FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS. SOVIET PRINCIPLED LINE WAS EXPRESSED PERSONALLY BY BREZHNEV WITH "ALL AUTHORITATIVENESS;"

--STATED THAT IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WAS NOT AN EASY MATTER SINCE IT HAD BECOME COMPLICATED BY A SERIES OF NEGATIVE ELEMENTS. TO OVERCOME THIS, MUTUAL EFFORTS WERE NEEDED AS WELL AS READINESS TO TAKE "PRACTICAL, CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS". SOVIET UNION IS READY TO DO ITS PART IN THIS REGARD;

-- RETURNED REPEATEDLY AND EMPHATICALLY TO THEME OF EGYPTIANS INCONSISTENCY; TO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORD AND DEED - POLITICAL DECLARATIONS AND CONCRETE, PRACTICAL ACTS; TO IMPORTANCE OF ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST; TO EASE OF "UNRAVELING THREADS OF TRUST", BUT OF DIFFICULTY OF PUTTING THEM TOGETHER AGAIN.

5. GROMYKO, LIKE BREZHNEV, DESCRIBED GENERAL AGREEMENT WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND EGYPT ON ISSUE OF M.E. SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, HE THEN ABRUPTLY DECLARED THAT "SOME" WERE TRYING TO TWIST SOVIET POSITION ON QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND STATED WITH "ALL DEFINITIVENESS" THAT SOVIET UNION HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND IS NOW FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FOR ALL, "I REPEAT, FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY THEM IN 1967.

6. COMMENT. DESPITE THE VIGOROUS HEAD SCRUBBING PUBLICLY ADMINISTERED BY GROMYKO TO FAHMI, WE DETECT IN BOTH THESE REPORTS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIET SIDE, AT LEAST, BEING WILLING TO CONSIDER THE " CONCRETE MEASURES" DESCRIBED BY BREZYNEV AND REPEATED BY GROMYKO DESIGNED TO MOVE THE PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 08342 111510Z

RELATIONSHIP FROM ITS PRESENT MORIBUND POSITION. FROM THE SOVIET STANDPOINT MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE WILLINGNESS OF THE EGYPTIANS TO ACCEPT THE TONGUE LASHING THEY WERE APPARENTLY GIVEN DURING THESE MEETINGS AND TO INDICATE IN BOTH "WORD AND DEED" THAT THEY WILL DO BETTER IN THE FUTURE TO CONDUCT A POLICY LESS OVERTLY HOSTILE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS LEADERSHIP. TOON

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